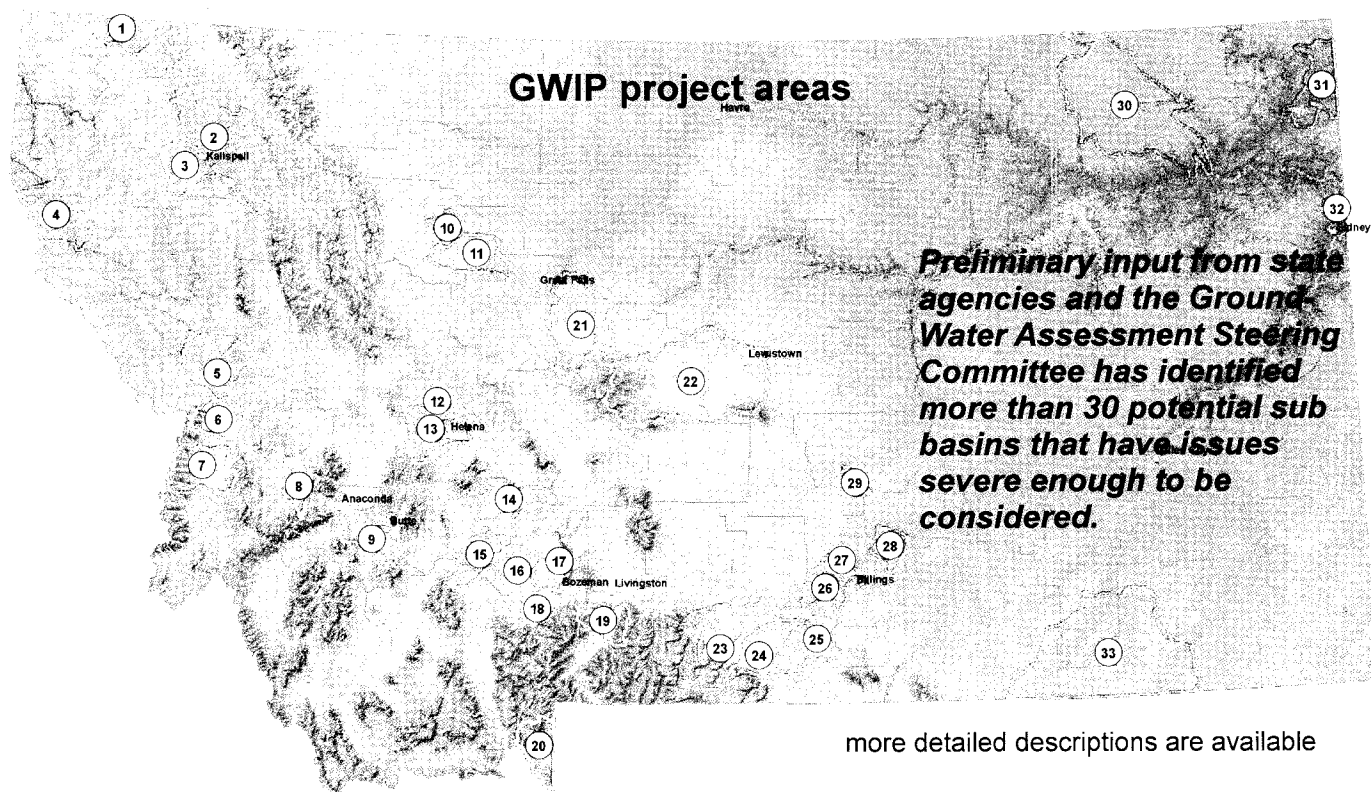


HB52 Ground-Water Investigations ProgramExhibit No. 1Date 4-15-09

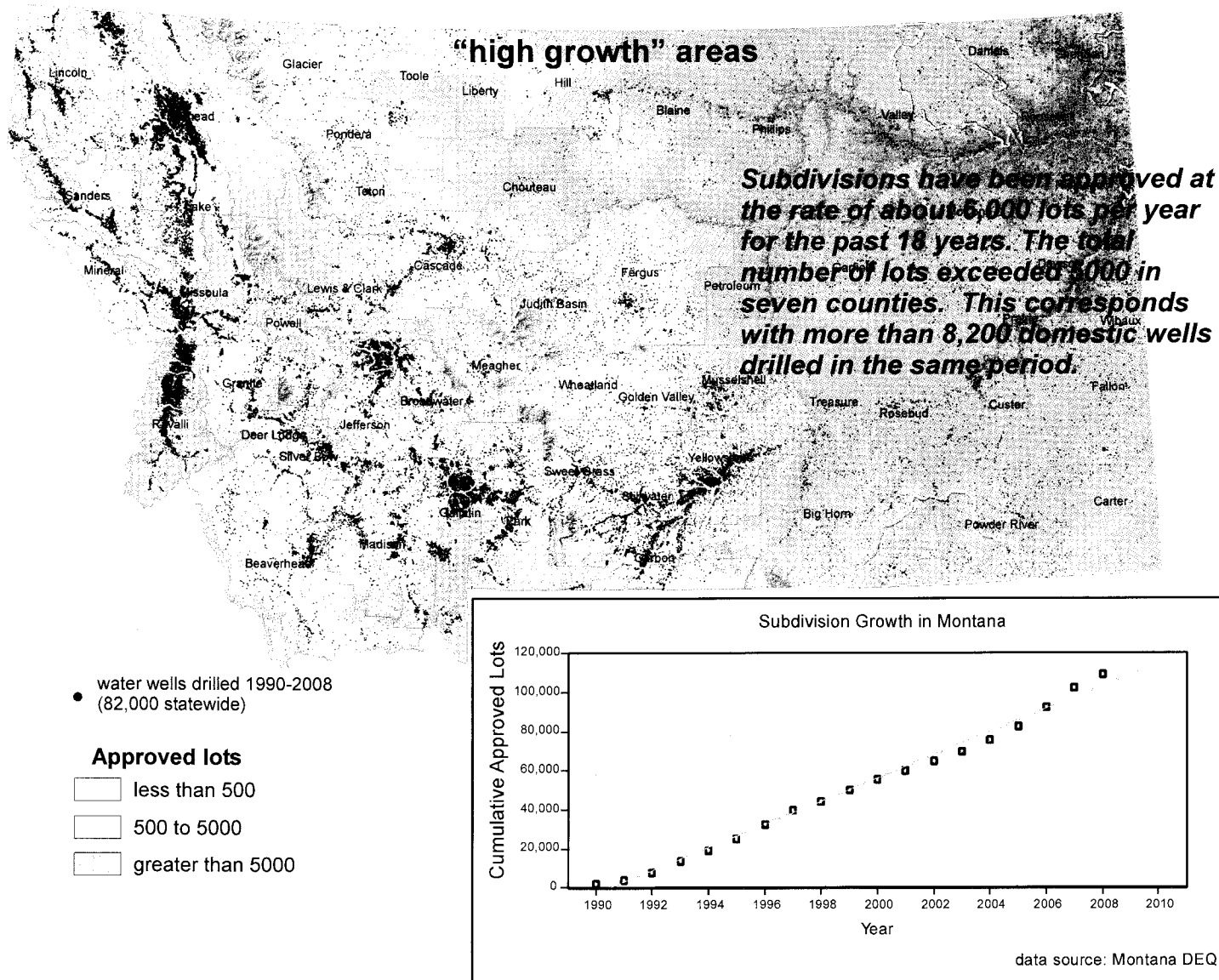
The 2007/2008 Water Policy Interim Committee (WPIC) recognized that competition for water HB 52 resources and the lack of detailed information on ground-water/surface water interaction has challenged informed water-resource management and development in Montana. The WPIC found that "continued and expanded study of ground-water resources is vital to shaping statewide policy as well as providing the data necessary for local decisions regarding water." HB52 was drafted by the WPIC in response to this finding.

The Ground-Water Investigations Program (GWIP) established by HB52 would add to Montana's capability to deal with important water-resource issues including:

- stream depletion from ground-water development by subdivisions or irrigation projects,
- cumulative effects of existing and proposed water development on stream flow,
- impacts to ground water and surface water from changes in irrigation practices or land use,
- implementation of aquifer storage and recovery (ASR) in Montana, and
- evaluating the success of mitigation/offset plans in closed basins.



1 Eureka	8 Georgetown Lake	15 Three Forks	22 Little Belt Mtns	29 Roundup
2 Flathead Valley	Phillipsburg	16 Manhattan	23 Stillwater Valley	30 Flaxville gravels
3 Smith Valley	9 Summit Valley	17 Belgrade	24 Rock Creek	31 Clear Lake
4 Noxon	10 Priest Butte Lake	18 Four Corners	25 Prior Mtns	32 Sidney
5 Missoula Valley	11 Greenfield Bench	19 Pine Creek	26 Park City	33 Coalbed methane
6 Florence	12 North Hills	20 W. Yellowstone	27 West Billings	
7 Hamilton	13 Scratchgravel Hills	21 Belt, Monarch	28 East Billings	
	14 Townsend, Toston			



HB52 elements:

- Directs the Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology to conduct 1-3 year focused investigations of ground water and surface water in high growth, or over-appropriated areas,
- Adds a member of the development community to the Ground-Water Assessment Steering Committee authorized in 2-15-1523 MCA,
- Directs the Ground-Water Assessment Steering Committee to prioritize sub basin investigations based on anticipated growth in housing, agriculture, industry and commercial activity

Ground-Water Investigation Program Products:

- Each sub basin investigation products will include:
 - A detailed report that describes the hydrogeologic system,
 - Models that simulate hydrogeologic features and processes, and
 - A comprehensive set of hydrogeologic data available through the MBMG Ground-Water Information Center (GWIC)

Each project will be a focused investigation of ground water and surface water in a sub-basin of sufficient size to construct models and a detailed report of the investigation. The models, reports, and supporting data will be technical in nature and used directly by scientists and engineers representing agencies, applicants, senior water-right holders, and other stakeholders.